



# Utah Land Trusts Protection & Advocacy Office

## Protection and Advocacy Committee Meeting Packet

Tuesday, January 9, 2024; 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### Zoom access:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5893447457?pwd=QTRWN3VLUloxaXNpTjNnWGVVoZXNtdz09>

**Anchor Location:** 310 S Main St., Suite 1275, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84101

The agenda will be as follows:

- 1) Welcome and call meeting to order
- 2) Chairman's report
- 3) Approval of minutes
  - a) October 10, 2023
  - b) November 3, 2023  
*attached, exhibit (A) pages 3-8*
- 4) Calendar and confirmation of meeting dates  
*attached, exhibit (B) page 9-10*
- 5) Stakeholder and public input  
*The committee will set aside 15 minutes at the committee meeting to hear from anyone wishing to speak. Each presenter is allowed one opportunity and has up to three (3) minutes for remarks. If joining by Zoom, please use the "raise hand" feature at the bottom of the screen, in order to be called upon to provide comment.*
- 6) Trust System Legislative Audit
- 7) Trust System reports
  - a) TLAC, Paula Plant
  - b) SITFO, Scott Day
  - c) Trust Lands Administration, Michelle McConkie
  - d) Protection & Advocacy Office
    - i) Jessie Stuart
      - (1) Annual Report
      - (2) Protection & Advocacy Office Website
      - (3) Distribution Updates
      - (4) Update on Conferences
    - ii) Ashton Hatch
      - (1) Branding and Referencing Guidelines
      - (2) Beneficiary Spotlights
      - (3) Daily News Updates



## Utah Land Trusts Protection & Advocacy Office

- iii) Kim Christy
  - (1) Constitutional Amendment Campaign
  - (2) Legislative Outreach
    - (a) One-on-one Collaborative Visits
    - (b) November 2023 Trust System Interim Breakfast
  - (3) Upcoming Legislative Session
    - (a) Budget-Funding Request
    - (b) Collaborative Bill Tracking
    - (c) Bills of Interest
  - (4) TLA and SITFO Board Nominating Committees Upcoming Responsibilities and Meetings
- 8) Closed Meeting – Annual Review of Protection & Advocacy Office Director
- 9) The Committee may enter a closed session pursuant to Utah Code §53D-2-202.1(c) for the Annual Review of the Protection & Advocacy Office Director.
- 10) Adjourn

This meeting can be accessed via Zoom. Interested parties, including members of the public may attend, at the anchor location 310 S Main St., STE 1275, Salt Lake City, UT, 84101 or virtually through the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5893447457?pwd=QTRWN3VLUl0xaXNpTjNnWGVoZXNtdz09>

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations during the meeting may notify the Protection & Advocacy Office at (385) 315-1892 or Jpstuart@utah.gov

October 10, 2023 – Draft Minutes

November 3, 2023 – Draft Minutes

## **EXHIBIT A**

Draft Minutes  
Land Trusts Protection & Advocacy Committee  
Tuesday, October 10, 2023 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Electronic Meeting with Anchor Location  
310 S Main St., Ste. 1275, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

In-Person Participants:

Paula Plant, Advocacy Committee Vice Chair  
Richard Ellis, Advocacy Committee  
Louie Cononelos, Advocacy Committee  
Kim Christy, Advocacy Office Director  
Ashton Hatch, Advocacy Office  
Chris Pieper, Assistant Attorney General  
Marlo Oaks, Utah State Treasurer  
Brittany Griffin, Office of State Treasurer  
Brad Benz, Advocacy Committee Appointee  
Holly Korous, School LAND Trust Office  
Kira Bennet, School LAND Trust Office  
Margaret Bird, Community Member

Zoom Participants:

Steven Ostler, Advocacy Committee Chair  
Brigham Tomco, Advocacy Committee  
Scott Ruppe, TLA Deputy Director  
Jessie Stuart, Advocacy Office Assistant  
Director  
Roger Barrus, Advocacy Committee Appointee  
Peter Madsen, SITFO Director  
Kirt Slaugh, Office of State Treasurer  
Marla Kennedy, TLA Director of  
Communications & Legislative Affairs

1. Call meeting to order  
Meeting called to order by Chair Ostler at approximately 10 a.m.
2. Chairman's Report  
Chairman Ostler welcomed meeting participants.
3. Approval of Minutes  
Mr. Cononelos motioned to approve the July 18, 2023 meeting minutes. Ms. Plant seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.  
Mr. Ellis motioned to approve the September 12, 2023 meeting minutes. Ms. Plant seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
4. Recognition of existing committee members and welcome of new committee members  
Ms. Plant, Mr. Cononelos, Mr. Ellis, and Mr. Christy expressed gratitude for Chair Ostler and Mr. Tomco in their positions of service on the Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Committee. Their service is much appreciated on behalf of the Trust System and the beneficiaries.  
Ms. Plant and Mr. Christy welcomed and introduced Mr. Brad Benz (appointed by the SITFO Board of Trustees) and Mr. Roger Barrus (appointed by the Trust Lands Administration Board of Trustees) to the Advocacy Committee. Mr. Benz has a background in investing, finance, education, and technology. Mr. Barrus has previously served in the Utah State Legislature and on the Trust Lands Administration Board of Trustees.
5. Election of committee chair and vice chair  
Mr. Cononelos motioned to elect Mr. Richard Ellis as Chair of the Advocacy Committee. Ms. Plant seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.  
Mr. Cononelos motioned to elect Ms. Paula Plant as Vice Chair of the Advocacy Committee. Mr. Ellis seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

6. Calendar and confirmation of meeting dates

The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be held on January 9, 2024 from 10 am-12 pm.

7. Stakeholder and Public Input

No public input was provided.

8. Open Public Meetings Act training

Mr. Pieper led the Open Public Meeting Act training.

9. Trust Lands System Reports

**Trust Lands Advisory Committee (TLAC) Report:**

Ms. Plant introduced Ms. Holly Kouros, as a training specialist, and Ms. Kira Bennet, as a compliance specialist with the School Children's Trust Office. Final distributions have been sent out to schools throughout the state with the exception of three new schools that have not yet completed the requirements.

Ms. Plant informed the Advocacy Committee that the School Children's Trust Office will be running two bills during the next legislative session. One bill is designed to authorize funds be distributed to schools that are unable to seat a community council in unique circumstances. Another bill is outlining approvals regarding charter schools.

**Trust Lands Administration Report (TLA):**

Ms. Marla Kennedy provided the TLA report to the committee. She provided an update on the Trust Lands Administration's revenues for FY2023 topping \$145 million.

Upcoming land exchanges include the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration Exchange Act of 2023 (HR3049 & S1405) and the Dingle Act. The Exchange Act has passed favorably out of House and Senate Committees and will next go the floors of both bodies. The Dingle Act is within the appraisal process and is anticipated to be finalized in early Spring 2024.

Outreach efforts made by the Trust Lands Administration include a new public website, social media campaign, rebranding, participating in an oil and gas royalty audit, and involvement at the Uintah Basin Energy Summit and One Utah Summit, where Director Michelle McConkie was able to participate along with other leaders within the Trust System and external state and county leaders.

**SITFO Report:**

Mr. Peter Madsen presented the SITFO report, providing the following updates on SITFO meetings, budget, and SITFO performance.

The Finance and Compensation Committee approved the FY2025 budget. Mr. Madsen announced SITFO is looking to hire two people to grow their investment team.

The 2023 SITFO Summit occurred in Park City and was an educational and enlightening event for all. SITFO awarded former Treasurer David Damschen with the Friend of the Trust award on October 5. The Friend of the Trust award recognizes former Treasurer David Damschen for the efforts he made to establish and perpetuate SITFO and aided leaders of that agency in their development and made their work possible.

**Protection & Advocacy Office (Advocacy Office) Report:**

Mr. Kim Christy led the Advocacy Office report. He updated the committee on the supplemental budget

request that has gone forward to request the necessary funding to fund the new communications specialist position within the Advocacy Office. Mr. Christy informed the Committee of efforts made by the Trust System to create a video to help educate School Community Councils and other stakeholders regarding the work of the Trust System. Additional updates were given regarding the upcoming constitutional amendment campaign, progress with one on one legislator visits, and a planned interim breakfast to be hosted at the Capitol building in November.

Ms. Stuart notified the committee of the recent distribution announcements for FY2024 and efforts to inform the beneficiaries of their distribution.

Mr. Hatch presented outreach and communication efforts made by the Advocacy Office including outreach efforts at conferences and conventions and beneficiary social media spotlights. In addition, the Advocacy Office will commence distributing daily news updates that provide news briefs from various media sources to inform internal stakeholders on current issues relating to the Trust System.

#### 10. Legislative Updates

Mr. Christy discussed potential bills going forward during the next legislative session. Alongside the School Children's Trust Office bills regarding charter school plan approval process and exempting school community council requirements in unique circumstances. There may also be a bill introduced altering the makeup of the Advocacy Committee.

#### 11. Closed Meeting:

Chair Ellis entertained a motion to enter into a closed session pursuant to Utah Code §52-4-205(e), strategy session to discuss the sale of real property. Mr. Connelos motioned to move into closed session. Ms. Plant seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

#### 12. Adjourn

Upon ending the closed session and entering into an open session, Mr. Connelos moved to adjourn. Ms. Plant seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Draft Minutes  
Land Trusts Protection & Advocacy Committee  
Friday, November 3, 2023 | 9:30 a.m.

Electronic Meeting with Anchor Location  
310 S Main St., Ste. 1275, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Attendees:

Richard Ellis, Chair (Virtual)  
Paula Plant, Vice Chair (Virtual)  
Brad Benz, Committee Member (Virtual)  
Roger Barrus, Committee Member (Virtual)  
Louie Connelos, Committee Member (Virtual)  
Chris Pieper, Assistant Attorney General (Virtual)  
Kim Christy, Director (In-Person)  
Jessie Stuart, Assistant Director (Virtual)  
Ashton Hatch, Communications Specialist (Virtual)  
Marlo Oaks, Utah State Treasurer (Virtual)  
Kirt Slaugh, Utah Treasurer's Office (Virtual)  
Brittany Griffin, Utah Treasurer's Office (Virtual)  
Michelle McConkie, Director (Virtual)  
Kyle Pasley, Assistant Director (Virtual)  
Chris Shiraldi, Legal Counsel (Virtual)  
Mike Johnson, Legal Counsel (Virtual)  
Warren Peterson, TLA Board of Trustees, Vice Chair (Virtual)

Meeting called to order by Chair Ellis at approximately 9:30 a.m.

1. Welcome

Chairman Richard Ellis opened the November 3, 2023 Land Trusts Protection & Advocacy Committee meeting.

2. Closed Session

Mr. Ellis entertained a motion to move into closed session. Mr. Connelos moved that the Committee move into a closed session, Mr. Barrus seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous by the present Advocacy Committee members.

Record of vote:

Richard Ellis  
Louie Connelos  
Brad Benz  
Roger Barrus

Committee entered into a closed session pursuant to Utah Code §52-4-205(e) strategy session to discuss the sale of real property.

3. Action Item

Once in open session, Chairman Ellis entertained a motion to adjourn. Ms. Plant moved to adjourn, Mr. Connelos seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. All meeting attendees were participants in the closed meeting. Ms. Plant joined the meeting at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Record of vote:

Richard Ellis  
Paula Plant  
Louie Connelos

Brad Benz  
Roger Barrus

Meeting was adjourned.



# Calendar and Confirmation of Meeting Dates

## **EXHIBIT B**



## Trust System Calendar Dates

This information is provided for the convenience to track key dates and meetings related to the School and Institutional Trust Lands System for the next 6 months. *\*Last Updated: Nov. 8th, 2023*  
Dates are subject to change depending on the agencies' board's, or committee's needs.

### Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Committee

**Committee Meetings are typically held the second Tuesday of January, April, July and October at 10am**

January 9th, 2024	10am - 12pm
April 9th, 2024	10am - 12pm

### School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration

**Board of Trustee Meetings typically held the third Thursday of every month at 9am**

November 16th, 2023	9am - 12pm
December - No Meeting	No Meeting
January 18th, 2024	9am - 12pm
February 15th, 2024	9am - 12pm
March 21st, 2024	9am - 12pm
April 18th, 2024	9am - 12pm

### School and Institutional Trust Funds Office (SITFO)

**Board of Trustee meetings are typically held the ninth Tuesday after quarter-end, 9am -4pm. Dates subject to change.**

December 5th, 2023	9am - 4pm
March 5th, 2024	9am - 4pm
June 11th, 2024	9am - 4pm

### Trust Lands Advisory Committee (TLAC - Advisory to USBE)

**Committee Meetings typically held the third Monday of every month at 12pm**

November 20th	12pm - 2pm
December - No Meeting	No Meeting
January 11th, 2024	12pm - 2pm
February - No Meeting	No Meeting
March 18th, 2024	12pm - 2pm
April 15th, 2023	12pm - 2pm

### Other Significant Dates

January 16th, 2024	First day of annual legislative general session
March 1st, 2024	Last day of annual legislative general session